

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Final Official Action November 7, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the forgoing amendment, claims 1, 17, 35, 37, and 58 have been amended. Claims 9-16, 18-29, 47-57, 60 and 75 were cancelled without prejudice. Thus, claims 1-8, 17, 30-46, 58, 59, 61-63 and 69-74 are currently pending for further action.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Office Action stated that Claim 75 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Independent Claims 1, 17, 35 and 58 have each been amended to substantially recite the additional limitation as originally presented in dependent Claim 75. Thus, all of the pending claims include the allowable subject matter previously presented in Claim 75.

More specifically:

Claim 1 is amended to further recite that the “tapered thickness is configured to resiliently expand said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain said negative pressure within a pre-determined range”.

Claim 17 is amended to further recite that the “thickness tapers and is configured to resiliently expand in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain a pressure within a pre-determined range”.

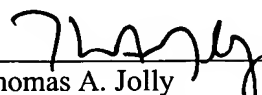
Claim 35 is amended to further recite that the “thickness tapers to facilitate resilient expansion of said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain a negative pressure within said chamber within a pre-determined range”.

Claim 58 is amended to further recite that the method includes “resiliently expanding said chamber in response to a change in ambient conditions so as to maintain said negative pressure within said pre-determined range, said section of tapered wall thickness facilitating said expanding”

Following entry of these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of all of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn. The present application is clearly in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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